

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 14, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 457

Introduced by Senators McPherson and Margett

February 20, 2003

An act relating to workers' compensation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 457, as amended, McPherson. ~~Workers' compensation benefit delays.~~

Existing law ~~provides that when the payment of~~ *establishes a system of workers' compensation benefits* ~~has been unreasonably delayed or refused, the amount of the compensation shall be increased by 10%. Existing law provides that this delay or refusal to pay compensation constitutes good cause to rescind, alter, or amend the order, decision, or award for injured workers.~~

~~This bill would express the Legislature's intent that the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Industrial Relations review the effectiveness of the above provisions in penalizing and deterring unreasonably late and denied benefit payments.~~

~~This bill would specify that its provisions would only become operative if SB 229 is enacted during the 2003 portion of the 2003-04 Regular Session and becomes operative.~~

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to improve the workers' compensation system by promoting the efficient delivery of high quality appropriate medical care.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the~~
- 2 ~~Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of~~
- 3 ~~Industrial Relations review the effectiveness of Section 5814 of~~
- 4 ~~the Labor Code in penalizing and deterring unreasonably late and~~
- 5 ~~denied benefit payments.~~
- 6 ~~SEC. 2. This bill shall only become operative if Senate Bill~~
- 7 ~~229 is enacted during the 2003 portion of the 2003-04 Regular~~
- 8 ~~Session and becomes operative.~~
- 9 *SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve the*
- 10 *workers' compensation system by promoting the efficient delivery*
- 11 *of high quality appropriate medical care.*

